GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:682
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
UPGRADATION OF SAFETY AT NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
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Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian N-reactors emit more radiation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether even stations considered best emit three times more radiation in comparison to international norms;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether technology designed to upgrade safety at Nulcear Power Plants is too expensive for developing countries like India; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to make it economically viable?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER`S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) No, Sir. All emissions from Indian Nuclear Reactors are well within regulatory limits set by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board which are comparable to International Standards.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise, in view of (c) above.

(e)&(f) Compliance to safety in terms of requirements of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, which are as stringent as the international norms, is mandatory for all reactors. The safety performance is continuously monitored and safety upgrades implemented, as needed, in all our nuclear reactors. The expenditure on such upgrades, across different countries, is comparable and has to be incurred in view of the importance of safety globally in nuclear power technology. Our nuclear power plants while adhering to the principle of 'safety first' have demonstrated commercially competitive performance.